GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1513
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
INCENTIVES TO DOCTORS BY DRUG MANUFACTURING COMPANIES
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug manufacturing companies are providing several type of incentives to the doctors for promotion of their medicines;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to get it investigated and take stringent measures to curb it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) The Medical Council of India in its regulations viz. the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 have prescribed that:

6.4.1 A physician shall not give, solicit, or receive nor shall be offer to give solicit or receive, any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of or return for the referring, recommending or procuring of any patient for medical, surgical or other treatment. A physician shall not directly or indirectly, participate in or be a party to act of division, transference, assignment, subordination, rebating, splitting or refunding of any fee for medical, surgical or other treatment.

6.4.2 Provisions of para 6.4.1 shall apply with equal force to the referring, recommending or procuring by a physician or any person, specimen or material for diagnostic purposes or other study/work. Nothing in this section, however, shall prohibit payment of salaries by a qualified physician to other duly qualified person rendering medical care under his supervision.

Under the above Regulations, Chapter-8 provides for punishment anddisciplinary action which can be taken against doctors contravening the provisions of the regulations. If specific complaints are brought up before the Council the same will be referred to the State Medical Council concerned with which the doctor is registered or in case of those directly registeredwith Medical Council of India, action will be taken by the Ethical Committee of the Council after necessary inquiries.